

Wildlife Review for SP 7-28 Delineation

Date: 5/9/2011

Biologist: J. Hemenway

Location/Well#: Stewart Point 7-28 delineation

Comments:

The proposed delineation activities at the SP 7-28 well pad would have the following impacts on wildlife resources in the area. The proposed alternative would impact the mule deer crucial winter range through the removal of forage and the potential disruption of migration routes. Delineation activities have the potential to negatively impact pygmy rabbits through the removal of preferred habitat. The proposed disturbance would be located within delineated sage-grouse winter concentration habitat. An active swainson's hawk nest is located 0.5 miles west of the proposed action along the river corridor which contains nesting habitat for various raptor species.

A sage-grouse lek (Mt. Airy Fence) is located within 2 miles of the SP 7-28 location. However, based on the lack of activity over the past 10 years this lek has been classified as unoccupied by WGFD. Therefore, the timing stipulation for lek, brood rearing, and nesting habitat would not apply to the proposed action.

Stips/COA/Mitigation:

- Activities or surface use are not allowed from November 15 through April 30 for the protection of big game crucial winter range habitat.
- A pygmy rabbit survey is required prior to approval of construction activities. An appropriate buffer will be applied to protect active pygmy rabbit burrow systems if necessary.
- Disturbance and disruptive activities are prohibited from November 15 through March 14 in sage-grouse winter concentration areas.
- Activities or surface use are not allowed from February 1 to July 31 for the protection of raptor nesting habitat within one-half mile, or within one mile of ferruginous hawk nesting habitat.